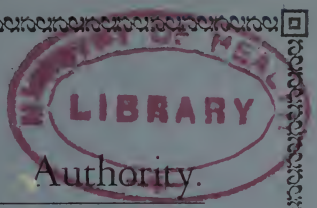
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Hartlepool Port Health Authority.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December,
1940

By ARNOLD S. L. BIGGART,
M.B., Ch.B.

WILLIAM BARLOW & SON, PRINTERS, PARK ROAD, WEST HARTLEPOOL
P 3870

Hartlepool Port Health Authority.

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Hartlepool Port Health Authority, 1941.

CHAIRMAN - W. CHARLTON.

Elected by West Hartlepool Corporation :

A. HYDE, J.P., Kenmara, Park Road, West Hartlepool.
E. BLOOM, Castlewood, Elm Grove, West Hartlepool.
J. FENWICK, Holly Mount, Wooler Rd., West Hartlepool.
T. GREEN, 27 Park Road, West Hartlepool.
W. CHARLTON, Bank House, Victoria Road, West Hartlepool.
J. MIDDLETON, J.P., 22 Tennyson Avenue, West Hartlepool.
J. W. MILLER, 46 Raby Road, West Hartlepool.
T. W. PINKNEY, 78 Church Street, West Hartlepool.
O. LUPTON, J.P. (Mayor), Exchange Vaults, George Street, West Hartlepool.
E. HARBRON, J.P., 17 Alverstone Avenue, West Hartlepool.

Elected by Hartlepool Corporation :

F. J. CARR, J.P., Piercliffe, St. Hilda Street, Hartlepool.
R. H. DAVISON, J.P., Shincliffe, Albion Terrace, Hartlepool.
C. CHAMBERS, 86 Hart Road, Hartlepool.
J. STEVENSON, 8 Gibb Square, Hartlepool.
J. METCALF, 55 Arch Street, Hartlepool.

Fixed Days of Meeting :

At the Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.

Feb. 20th, 1941	June 19th, 1941	Nov. 20th, 1941
Apr. 17th, 1941	Sept. 18th, 1941	Dec. 11th, 1941

Each day at 3-0 p.m.

Finance and Port Committees :

All the Members of the Authority are Members of these Committees. The Committees meet at 2-45 p.m. on the same day as the bi-monthly meeting is held.

Officers :

Clerk : C. GILBERT BUNTING, Solicitor, Exchange Building, 66 Church Street, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2850
Medical Officer : A. S. L. BIGGART, M.B., Ch.B., 221 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044
Deputy Medical Officer : L. J. STONE, M.B., Ch.B., 221 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044
Surveyor : F. DURKIN, A.M.I.C.E., Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.
Inspector : E. V. ABBEY, Cert.R.S.I., Master Mariner, 16 Granville Avenue, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2015
Deputy Inspector : G. A. WARD, 16 Frances Street, Hartlepool. Telephone No. 6102
Rat Catcher : G. MENHENNET, 62 Howard Street, Hartlepool.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

February, 1941,

To the Chairman and Members of the
Hartlepool Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1940.

Following the procedure of my last Report this one has also had to be considerably curtailed for obvious reasons.

I am pleased to state that no case of Infectious Disease has occurred on vessels arriving in the port.

Under the International Sanitary Convention of Paris and the Deratisation of Ships Regulations, 34 Deratisation Exemption Certificates and 3 Deratisation Certificates have been issued. This is a considerable reduction from the previous year when 75 Certificates were issued. During the year 207 rats were destroyed which is a similar figure to that of 1939. There has been no evidence of any rat mortality when vessels have been searched.

The number of vessels arriving in the port during the year amount to a little over fifty per cent of the 1939 figure.

The work carried out by your Inspector, his Deputy and the Rat Catcher has been to my entire satisfaction and the Inspector's work is given in more detail in the report.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks for the valuable assistance given to me by the Chief Preventive Officer of H.M. Customs and his Staff, to Captain Chapman and his Assistant Dock Masters, to the Board of Trade Surveyor, the L.N.E.R's Dock Manager and also to the Pilot Master and Pilots for their hearty co-operation with the Officials of this Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARNOLD S. L. BIGGART,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

I. NUMBER OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Table A. (*Ministry of Health.*)

	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Health Inspector			
From Foreign	20	126	15	11	—
From Coastwise...	14	646	9	7	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise	34	772	24	18	—

II. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

(*a*) **For the Port.** The port is supplied by the Hartlepool Gas and Water Company.

(*b*) **For Shipping.** Ships are supplied from the mains through hydrants from the several quays or wharves where the service is laid on.

(*c*) **Number of Water Boats and their Sanitary Conditions.** There are no water boats in use for shipping in the Hartlepools.

The water is very hard but of excellent quality. It is obtained from springs and catchment basins.

III. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Paragraphs 1 to 11 as printed in previous Reports.

TABLE C. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1940		No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Chicken Pox	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever...	—	—	—
Typhus Fever...	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, or Typhus Fever has occurred on any vessel arriving in the port during the year. Rats sent for Bacteriological examination were found to be free from Plague infection.

TABLE D. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No cases, to be included in Table D., occurred.

36 Cases of sickness occurred on vessels in the port during the year. 28 were treated on board, 7 sent to Hospital and 3 sent home. There were 3 deaths, 2 in Hospital and 1 on board ship.

IV. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 as printed in previous Reports.

DERATISATION OF SHIPS.

Information for Ship Owners and Agents.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 as printed in previous Reports.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1940.

TABLE E. (*Ministry of Health.*)

(1) On Vessels.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year
Number of Rats	—	—	—	35	—	—	—	81	50	4	37	—	207

41 Mice were also caught and destroyed.

TABLE F. (*Ministry of Health.*)

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year
Number of Rats	—	—	8	9	—	2	—	18	—	11	27	15	90

15 Mice were also caught and destroyed.

TABLE H.† (*Ministry of Health.*)

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

No. of Ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued					No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates Issued.	Total Certificates Issued
	After Fumigation with			After Trapping Poisoning, etc.	Total		
	H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
37	1	1	...	1	3	34	37

† Applicable only to those ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port 11.)

V. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British ..	554	Nil	4	12
Other Nations	218	Nil	Nil	8

The above table is a classification of Nuisances and defects found to exist on 772 vessels inspected during the year. The nuisances or sanitary defects were mainly composed of dirty and verminous crews' quarters and bedding, defective W.C.s and flush pipes, defective drainage and soil pipes, leaky decks and hawse pipes, defective stoves and funnels, defective port lights, etc. All these nuisances have been abated or are in the process of being abated.

VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. **Action taken** under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, The Imported Milk Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

There has been very little importation of food and no necessity to take action under the above regulations.

2. **Shell Fish.** Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority, stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. Report of any action under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1915, or the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934.

There are no Shell-Fish beds or layings under the jurisdiction of this Authority. There are, however, Mussels, Winkles and Cockles, which can be picked from dock gates, walls and rocks, and which are liable to pollution from sewage. For this reason warning notices are posted from time to time drawing the attention of the public to the dangerous consequences arising from the consumption of such shell-fish.

Fresh fish is landed at the Fish Quay, Hartlepool, where it is inspected by the Hartlepool Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector. Unsold fish and fish offal are removed to a factory within the Borough of Hartlepool for conversion to fish meal, etc.

3. **Number of Samples of Food examined by** :

(*a*) **Bacteriologist.**—Nature of sample. Result of examination.

(*b*) **Analyst.**—Nature of sample. Result of examination.

There has not been any necessity to submit any samples of food for examination during 1940.